



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6859**

January Session, 2005

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB06859ED\_APP040805 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING A CAREER LADDER PROGRAM FOR  
EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONALS AND A TEACHER INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is established a  
2       grant program to assist institutions of higher education that offer  
3       baccalaureate degrees or higher and have teacher preparation  
4       programs, in collaboration with local education agencies and other  
5       organizations, including, but not limited to, businesses, institutions of  
6       higher education offering associate degrees and teacher organizations,  
7       to develop a career ladder program within their institutions for school  
8       paraprofessionals with the goal of helping them become teachers.

9       (b) Institutions of higher education that develop such career ladder  
10      programs shall, in the development of the program and recruitment  
11      for the program, collaborate with local education agencies and  
12      community organizations to ensure that their needs are met.

13      (c) The career ladder program shall provide:

14      (1) An option for program completion on a part-time basis with  
15      flexibility to all for alternate semesters of coursework and student  
16      teaching;

17      (2) A continuation of the school paraprofessional's benefit package

18 with the local education agency employing the school  
19 paraprofessional;

20 (3) Support services, including, but not limited to, tutoring to meet  
21 university requirements and course assignments, child care, career  
22 counseling and financial aid guidance; and

23 (4) Mentoring during the first three years of teaching.

24 (d) Local education agencies collaborating with institutions of  
25 higher education that develop such career ladder programs shall  
26 recruit school paraprofessionals to enter the program, arrange for  
27 administrative leave for school paraprofessionals participating in the  
28 program and guarantee a provisional teaching position upon  
29 completion of the program.

30 (e) Grants awarded to institutions of higher education that develop  
31 such career ladder programs shall be used to pay for tuition for  
32 participating school paraprofessionals, child care expenses of such  
33 paraprofessionals, release time from local education agencies  
34 employing such paraprofessionals, compensation for mentors, support  
35 services under subsection (c) of this section, staff costs and stipends for  
36 such paraprofessionals.

37 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10a-163 of the general statutes is  
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
39 *1, 2005*):

40 (c) Full-time undergraduate students in their junior or senior years  
41 and full-time graduate students who have been admitted to a teacher  
42 education program approved by the State Board of Education and  
43 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education and which  
44 prepares an individual for teaching in a field designated by the  
45 Commissioner of Education as an area of critical teacher shortage shall  
46 [ within available appropriations,] be eligible for student loans under  
47 this program in an amount not greater than five thousand dollars per  
48 year for not more than two years.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10a-163(c)

***HED***      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*      ED

***ED***      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*      APP